Disbanding of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1258. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to disband the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and hand over its Rs. 76 lakhs budget to the Haryana Agricultural University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Sir, a visiting team of the ICAR has recommended that two Krishi Vigyan Kendras, one at Karnal under the National Dairy Research Institute, (Karnal) and another at Shikohpur, Gurgaon under the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (New Delhi) may be integrated with new KVKs proposed to be set up under the Haryana Agricultural University. This is with a view to make them more effective in serving the farmers.

Relaxation in the stipulation to retain Funds by NDDB

1259. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nodal Market Intervention Agency NDDB, cannot retain funds beyond Rs. 30 crores out of sale of edible oil under market intervention activities, such as augmenting oil supplies, maintaining buffer stock while providing remunerative price to farmers and maintaining edible oil prices within the price band;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to relax the stipulation that funds beyond Rs. 30 crores realised during low stock period ploughed back to augment supply and hold price within the price band; and

(c) since the price band has been specified in constant prices, what steps Government propose to oevolve for "relative" price bands in terms of current price to protect the oilseeds growers from being denied remunerative prices when inflation affects their inputs and standard of living.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The price bands are fixed on the basis of existing minimum support prices for oilseeds, cost of processing, storage, handling, distribution and other charges. The price band is also reviewed from time to time taking into consideration all relevant factors.

Closing down of farms

1260. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for closing down 8 of the 13 farms being managed by the Government owned State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Income based ration system

1261. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce an income-based rationing system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no change in Government's Policy on Public Distribution System so far.